

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-24, 27-34 and 37-40 are pending; Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21, 27 and 31 have been amended, Claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, 26, 35, 36 and 41-48 have been canceled, and no claims have been added herewith. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not introduce any new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, 26, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Claims 1-5, 10, 11-15, 20, 21-25, 30, 31-35 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Coffey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,675,510, hereinafter “the ‘510 patent”) in view of Hensley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,333,302, hereinafter the “the ‘302 patent”); Claims 8, 9, 18, 19, 28, 29, 38, 39 and 41-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the ‘510 patent in view of the ‘302 patent and further in view of Othmer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,358, hereinafter “the ‘358 patent”); and Claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, 27, 36 and 37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With respect to the rejection of claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, 26, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, these claims have been canceled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, the subject matter of Claims 6, 16, 26 and 36 was incorporated into independent Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 respectively. Further, Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 have been amended to delete the word “substantially” in light of the Office Action’s request to do so.

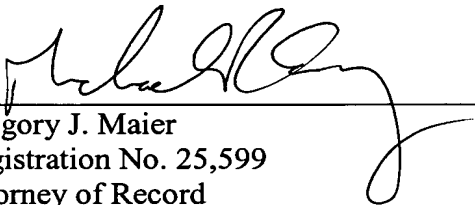
Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
GJM/MRC/abs



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record
Michael R. Casey, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,294